

CONNECTIONS

John Brown

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REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS AND WARDEN

OF THE

CONNECTICUT STATE PRISON:

SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE,

MAY SESSION, 1828.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATURE.

NEW HAVEN:

PRINTED BY HEZEKIAH HOWE.

1828.

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To the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, to be holden at New Haven, in May, 1828.

The Directors of the Connecticut State Prison, in compliance with the provisions of the Act for the establishment of said Prison, beg leave respectfully to

REPORT,

THAT on the 27th day of June last, they caused twenty of the convicts to be removed from New Gate, to the Connecticut State Prison—on the 14th of August, they removed the further number of twenty, and on the 29th of September, the residue of the Prisoners remaining at New Gate were removed.

On the first day of October, 1827, the Prison as such, commenced its operations; previous to which time the men had been principally employed in completing the Prison buildings, and the whole expense has been defrayed by the Commissioners for building, out of the building fund: and the accounts have been made up with reference to this distribution of the expenses.

Previous to the removal of the whole number of Prisoners, we had appointed Moses C. Pilsbury, Esq., formerly Warden of the New Hampshire Prison, to be Warden of the Connecticut State Prison. In selecting him for this situation, we followed as we believed, the decided expression of the public opinion. We consulted gentlemen from different parts of the State, who with entire unanimity, concurred with us, in the opinion, that we should be most fortunate, if we were able to obtain for the State, the services of Mr. Pilsbury. The result so far has not disappointed our expectations. By the provisions of our Statute, the Warden has the entire control of the Prison, and is responsible for its management, subject to the by-laws. Mr. Pilsbury has therefore taken the whole charge of the new Institution, and has superin-

tended not only the safe keeping of the Prisoners, but also the financial and mercantile operations, and has acted as the general Agent and Factor. He has also kept the accounts according to a system approved by us, by which the profit or loss of each department is exhibited.

The principles of the system adopted for the government of the Prison, are as few and simple as possible. We shall barely allude to them.

In the first place, all communication between the prisoners, either directly or indirectly, by night or day, is prohibited. We believe that this point has, to every purpose of practical utility, been fully attained ; and the public may rest assured, that while the present vigilance is observed, it is scarcely possible that any convict should leave the prison, debased by intercourse with other and more accomplished felons. We believe that the means of mutual corruption are effectually cut off ; and that the most practised and hardened offender, will be obliged to lock up in his own breast, his schemes, his secrets, and his arts ; and that the young offender, who perhaps has been detected in his first offence, may be again received into society, without the fear that he has been made worse by his imprisonment. No watchman or overseer is allowed to hold any conversation with a prisoner, except to direct him in his labor ; nor to receive from him, or to deliver to him, any letter or article, without the knowledge of the Warden—and the Warden is required forthwith, to dismiss any person who shall violate this rule. No prisoner is permitted to have in his possession any money. If on his arrival, he has money, it is passed to his credit on a book kept for that purpose, and he receives it at the time of his discharge.

By these measures, it is hoped that all the means of corrupting or seducing watchmen from their duty, will be removed. The use of ardent spirits, at or about the Prison, except on the prescription of the Physician, is prohibited ; and all persons employed there, are required by the terms of their contract, to abstain from their use, during the period of their employment.

By law, the Warden may punish the prisoners by whipping, not exceeding ten stripes. We are happy to say, that since the Warden has taken charge of the Institution, corporal punishment has not been inflicted in any case ; and the subordinate officers are not allowed to strike a man except in self-defense. When the prisoners arrived from New Gate, irons were found upon many of them, which they had constantly worn. These have from time to time been removed, as the appearance or conduct of the men would seem to justify—and for many months no prisoner has been in irons. It has been our earnest endeavor, and in this respect our wishes have been faithfully seconded by the Warden, to substitute in the treatment of these men, so far as it should be practicable, the law of kindness, for that of severity. An exact and rigid discipline has been established, to which all have been compelled to submit—and to which all have submitted with a promptness and readiness, which is as gratifying as it was unexpected.

As it respects the moral condition of the men, we do not hesitate to express our opinion, that it is far more favorable, than the most ardent friend of the new Institution had reason to anticipate. For many months, there has been manifested an appearance of submission and subdued feeling—deep sensibility—earnest attention to religious instruction—and entire and even cheerful obedience to every regulation. The Warden has been unwearied in his exertions, (and we say this, with a deep conviction of their value and usefulness,) to instruct and reclaim these men ; and to restore them to society at the expiration of their sentences, as sound and safe men.

Religious service has been performed morning and evening, and on sabbaths, either by the neighboring clergymen, who have kindly contributed their assistance, or by the Warden.

What effect these efforts to instruct, to reclaim and reform these men, shall have upon their future characters, or how permanent will be the impressions which they have received, it is not for us to say. We mean only to assert that their conduct at present is exemplary.

Doubtless, their future characters will in some measure depend upon the characters of those into whose hands they shall fall at the time of their discharge ; and we hope we shall not be deemed intrusive, if we offer a few considerations, which in our judgment should influence society, in their future treatment of these friendless men.

Probably the greatest trial which a prisoner is ever called to sustain, next to the suffering at the time of his first conviction and imprisonment ; is that which he experiences on the day of his discharge. Accustomed for years to submit to the will of others—and unused to provide himself either food or employment, he is turned upon the world without resources, without friends, and without character. What is he to do ? If society will not on any terms receive him ; if no man will employ or countenance him, because he has been the tenant of a prison, how is he to obtain the means of present subsistence ? Many men who at the time of their discharge have been disposed to industry, and have been ready to make every effort to gain an honest living ; have been driven from their purpose by this course of treatment, and have been obliged to resort to dishonest practices to supply even their present necessities. And there is reason to believe, that there are many persons at this moment in prison, for crimes which they have committed in these seasons of desperation. These men must live : and if the respectable and sound part of community, who might take them by the hand and place them in the right way, shall reject and cast them off without reference to their real characters ; it is very obvious that there is another class into whose hands they must of necessity fall, to be used for the purposes of violence and fraud.

That these inducements to a criminal course, might in some measure be removed, endeavors have been made to notify the friends of the convicts, of the expiration of their sentences—and in all cases the Warden has by our direction, advanced to each prisoner destitute of funds, at the time of his discharge, a sum sufficient to enable him to reach his friends ; or to defray his expenses, until he could procure employment. These sums thus

advanced by the Warden, have been by him charged in the Prison Accounts and by us allowed.

Previous to the removal of the whole number of prisoners, the Agent of the Connecticut Bible Society, offered to supply each prisoner with the Bible. In pursuance of this offer, the Warden received from him seventy bibles, which, together with those previously purchased, were sufficient to furnish each cell with a copy. In addition to this, various individuals and societies, have contributed several thousand pages of religious publications, which have been placed in the hands of the prisoners.

The Report and statement of the Warden annexed, will shew the pecuniary state of the Prison, and the avails of each department. We have from time to time, examined and adjusted the accounts, in the manner prescribed by law.

It will be observed, that the statement exhibits the concerns of the Prison, from its commencement on the first day of October last, up to the 31st day of March inclusive, a period of six months. In conformity with the wishes of the Comptroller, and the practice at his office, we fixed upon the first day of April, as the commencement of the financial year—and the inventory and estimates of stock, tools, &c. on hand, and the balances of accounts, have been taken with reference to that day.

The various articles received from the old prison, have been duly appraised by persons appointed by the Comptroller, and receipts have been made for the same by the directors, and delivered to the overseers of that prison. They have been duly entered in the Prison books, and charged, and distributed to the several departments, in the manner exhibited in the Report of the Warden. In some instances, these articles were probably appraised too high, and in others too low, and on the whole we are satisfied, at their full value. It can however, make no difference to the State; since in taking the inventory and estimate of tools on the 1st of April, they were appraised at the same sums at which they were originally entered, except in those instances where they had been made worse by use, or rendered more valuable by additions and repairs.

The stock which was received, consisted principally of wagon stuff and leather. The materials for wagons, were appraised by the overseer of the wagon shop, at New Gate ; the leather by an experienced shoe maker and dealer, and the same prices have been again affixed to so much of either article, as remains on hand.

As to the stock since purchased, it has been estimated at cost and the manufactured articles on hand, at something less than selling prices. We have been scrupulous in examining the estimates, lest a fictitious value might appear in the inventory of stock. In deciding to pursue the wagon business the past winter, reference was had to the fact, that the State had on hand a large supply of the requisite materials at the old prison, which would probably sell at a loss, and also, to the fact, that there were several excellent wagon makers, whose time of service would expire the present spring.

From the annexed statement of the Warden, it appears that for the six months, ending on the 31st of March, 1828, the Prison has earned the sum of \$1017 16 over and above the expenses of its management and support, which sum may be considered as profits.

At the time of commencing operations on the first day of October last, it became necessary to purchase for the use of the establishment, large supplies of various articles, such as beds, bedding and bedsteads, &c. for the cells—clothing for the prisoners—provisions and fuel, and stock and materials for the several shops. For these various expenditures a large sum of money became immediately necessary, before the prisoners had earned a single dollar. The sum of \$1300 was drawn from the Treasury, by the Warden, the whole of which was immediately paid for staves and heading ; a great proportion of which is still on hand. For the other objects, the Warden advanced from his own means, the sum stated in his report. How great a part of this sum it may be necessary to draw from the Treasury to reimburse him, will depend entirely on the sales of the articles on hand. Probably some portion of this sum however, must be drawn before sales can be effected.

It appears further from this statement, that a part of this sum has been taken for expenditures, which are not of ordinary annual recurrence, such as bedsteads and bedding, tools and utensils. After the first expense has been incurred in obtaining them, a comparatively trifling sum will keep them in repair.

We trust therefore, that the fact, that these sums have been required to commence operations, will be perceived not to affect the statements, as to the earnings of the Prisoners. It will probably, always be necessary in every institution of this kind, as in a private concern, to have a small stock account. And if the estimate of stock is correctly, and properly made, as we believe it to be in the present instance, it still presents no obstacle, to a satisfactory adjustment of the profits and loss of the Institution.

The only question is, in what proportion has the public property been increased or diminished.

As it respects the health and general appearance of the Prisoners, their diet, drink, lodgings, &c. we refer to the annexed report of Dr. S. B. Woodward, the attending physician.

In case any prisoner is reported as sick, notice is immediately given to the physician, and he receives all that attention, which is ordinarily bestowed on persons in other situations ; and such supplies of medicine and food, as are proper for the sick, have been uniformly furnished. We would mention as a singular fact, that not a case of severe sickness has occurred, nor has it been found necessary to order a single prisoner to the Hospital.

The ration for the day consists of one pound of beef, one pound of bread, as many potatoes as they may require, being about five bushels to a hundred rations, to which is added for supper, a porridge made of ground pease and cornmeal, so regulated as that each shall be amply supplied. It has not been practised to stop the rations, or abridge the men of their food, in any case. Nor is any prisoner allowed to purchase, or receive from any other quarter, any supplies of food or drink. The only drink furnished to prisoners, in health, is cold water.

The directors have thought it their duty, to turn the attention of the Legislature, for a moment, to the doubtful expediency of placing females in the State Prison. The law which authorized

their confinement in Newgate, was passed in 1824, since which time, five female prisoners have been sentenced, and one placed there by a commutation of punishment. There are four now confined. It appears from the certificate of the physician, that nearly one half the expense for medical attendance, on the whole number of convicts, has been incurred in visiting these four females. Unless the State shall be willing to incur the expense of organizing, in the institution, a separate department for females, to be under the control of a matron and other female attendants, it seems nearly impracticable, to treat this class of prisoners, as propriety and even humanity would require. Their attendants must now be persons of the other sex, and the bare statement of this fact, will present to the mind, a large class of other objections which we need not enumerate. It would be too severe, to place them constantly by night and day, in separate cells; and the officers have been compelled to place them together, in a single room, which is twenty feet square; and yet every objection against lodging a number of prisoners together in the same room, is as applicable to this class of convicts as any other. We are of the opinion that these four females, while their labor is of little value, occasion more vexation and trouble to the officers of the Prison, than every other convict confined in it; and we have no doubt that every person acquainted with the subject, will admit the justice of the following remark, made to us by the superintendent of the Auburn Prison. "I have," says he, "under my care, about four hundred and fifty male prisoners, and nine females; and I would cheerfully undertake the care of an additional four hundred and fifty men, to be rid of the nine women." And in his report made the last winter, to the legislature of the state of New York, he remarks, "It is a subject of surprise, that in this enlightened and christian age, female convicts should be confined in the same penitentiary with male convicts."

We are aware that there is some difficulty in disposing of this class of prisoners, but it has appeared to us, that the law as it stood before the recent alteration, was on the whole, to be preferred to the provisions of the present statute.

The question has been frequently proposed, whether this Institution would hereafter support itself, so that no further assistance from the Treasury would be necessary.

In answer to this question, we can obviously offer nothing but our opinion, with the considerations on which it is founded.

Probably no one supposed, that the Prison would for the first year, or two, support itself without some assistance.

The heavy expenses which are at first to be incurred, the embarrassments and hindrances incident to the commencement of every business, and the frequent trials and failures which must be encountered before a settled plan of operations can be adopted, had led us to expect little from the earnings of the prisoners for the first year.

It is also to be remarked, that the Prison commenced its operations at the very beginning of the cold season, and yet during a trial for six months, between the first day of October and the first day of April, it has produced over and above every expense, the sum of \$1017 16, as already stated.

If this experiment thus conducted, under circumstances so unfavorable, can be relied on, as we believe it may be; it will at least justify the opinion, that, after the sums already advanced by the Warden for the first expenditures shall be reimbursed, no farther demands upon the Treasury will be necessary for the support of the establishment.

Although the undersigned have never doubted that the public, in consequence of the change of system, would be relieved from large annual demands upon the Treasury; and although they have felt it to be important, that every institution of this kind should be made to support itself, and if possible, to return back to the State, some part of those expenses which the prosecution and conviction of offenders must occasion; still they have been accustomed to regard these pecuniary considerations, as of secondary importance, compared with what, they fervently hope may be, the great moral results of the improvement. Dated, April 10th, 1828.

JOHN RUSS,	}	<i>Directors.</i>
M. WELLES,		
JOHN S. PETERS,		

***To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of
Connecticut, at their May Session, 1828.***

The undersigned, Warden of the State Prison, would beg leave to submit the following statement of the receipts and profits, expenditures and disbursements, and the general concerns of the prison, for the half year, commencing October 1st, 1827, and ending March 31st, 1828.—

INCOME---SHOE SHOP.

Stock and tools on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827,			
received from old prison, - - -	\$266	33	
Stock since purchased, pay and board of			
overseer, repairs, &c. - - -	233	63	
		<hr/>	\$499 96
Received and charged during the past			
six months, - - - - -	1600	22	
Stock and tools on hand, March 31st, 1828,	207	97	
		<hr/>	1808 19
Making the amount of receipts from this			
department, exceeding the disburse-			
ments; which may be considered pro-			
fits accruing from the Shoe Shop, - - -			\$1308 23

COOPER'S SHOP.

Stock and tools on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827,			
received from old prison, - - -	94	28	
Stock, &c. since purchased, pay and board			
of overseer, repairs, &c. - - -	2128	08	
		<hr/>	2222 36
Received and charged for articles sold,	734	21	
Stock, tools, and manufactured articles			
on hand, March 31st, 1828, - - -	2100	82	
		<hr/>	2835 03
Exceeding the disbursements on account			
of the Cooper's Shop, - - - - -			612 67

CARPENTER'S SHOP.

Stock and tools on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827,			
received from old prison, - - -	343	77	
Stock since purchased, pay and board of			
overseer, repairs, &c. - - -	514	57	
		<hr/>	858 34

Received and charged for articles sold,	383	01	
Stock, tools, and manufactured articles			
on hand, March 31st, 1828, - - -	1154	71	
			1537 72
Exceeding the disbursements on account			
of the Carpenter's Shop, - - - - -			679 38

SMITH SHOP.

Stock and tools on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827,			
received from old prison, - - -	182	71	
Stock since purchased, pay and board of			
overseer, repairs, &c. - - -	465	31	
			648 02
Received and charged for articles sold,	343	44	
Stock, tools, and manufactured articles			
on hand, March 31st, 1828, - - -	637	96	
			981 40
Exceeding the disbursements on account			
of the Smith Shop, - - - - -			333 38

NAIL SHOP.

Stock and tools on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827,			
received from old prison, - - -	18	00	
Stock since purchased, repairs, &c. - - -	806	50	
			824 50
Received and charged for nails sold,	1312	39	
Stock and tools on hand, March 31st,			
1828, - - - - -	82	00	
			1394 39
Exceeding the disbursements on account			
of the Nail Shop, - - - - -			569 89
Received from persons visiting the Pris-			
on from Dec. 15th, 1827, to March			
31st, 1828, - - - - -			111 92
Total amount of receipts, - - - - -			\$3615 47

EXPENDITURES---PROVISIONS.

Provisions purchased since Oct. 1st,			
1827, - - - - -	1541	93	
Sold hides, tallow, neats tongues, &c. - - -	356	29	
			1185 64
Provisions on hand, March 31st, 1828,	-	-	425 72
Leaving for the amount consumed, - - - - -			759 92

CLOTHING AND BEDDING.

Clothing and Bedding on hand, Oct. 1st,		
1827, - - - - -	76 50	
Purchased since, - - - - -	834 30	
	<hr/>	910 80
On hand, March 31st, 1828,		673 00
		<hr/>
Leaving for the amount consumed, - - - - -		237 80

EXPENSES.

Furniture and fuel on hand, Oct. 1st,		
1827, - - - - -	95 77	
Since paid Warden's & deputy Warden's salary, Watchmen's wages and subsist- ence, fuel and incidental expenses, - - - - -	1821 02	
	<hr/>	1916 79
Furniture and fuel on hand, March 31st,		
1828, - - - - -		366 56
		<hr/>
Amount consumed or expended, - - - - -		1550 23

HOSPITAL.

Medicine on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827, re- ceived from old prison, appraised by Dr. Cook, - - - - -	8 00	
Purchased since, - - - - -	27 26	
Attending physician's bill for his services, - - - - -	47 00	
	<hr/>	82 26
Medicine on hand, March 31st, 1828, appraised by Dr. Woodward, - - - - -		31 90
		<hr/>
Amount expended, - - - - -		50 36
		<hr/>
Total amount of expenditures of every description, - - - - -		2,598 31
Balance gain to the Institution, - - - - -		1,017 16
		<hr/>
		\$3,615 47

It will be seen, by the foregoing statement, that the receipts of the Institution have been derived principally from the labor of convicts employed in the several branches of business as exhibited; and the disbursements have been made in the purchase of provisions and clothing, raw materials, and pay of Warden's and Deputy Warden's salary, pay of Watchmen and overseers of the departments, and

their subsistence ; and also for medicine and medical attendance, together with incidental expenses.

Distinct and particular accounts are kept with the several departments of the Prison, the balances of which are considered as showing its income and expenditure ; and, by the schedule marked A, will be seen estimates of property on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827, received from New Gate Prison, and appraised by persons duly qualified ; and also estimates of property on hand, March 31st, 1828, appraised by mechanics where they pertained to their shops, particular regard being had to the former appraisal, where the article remained in the same state ; varying, however, where any difference was apparent, with a view to rate them not above their value ; the raw materials remaining in the same state, at their actual cost ; manufactured articles at a little lower rate than we usually sell for. Schedule B, showing a statement of debts to and from the prison, and all its financial concerns, together with a second view of the state of the pecuniary affairs of the prison ; and in proof of the foregoing, contrasting the difference between the amount of money drawn from the Treasury ; money advanced by the Warden, as per cash account, and debts due individuals—and debts due from individuals, and increase of property on hand, 31st of March, 1828, the result of which leaves the balance of gain as in the former statement of receipts and expenditures.

It will also be seen, that while the Warden is restricted, by law, to transact all the business of the Institution upon cash estimates, no means are provided thus to enable him to do his duty, or to derive any advantage from purchasing with ready money, except he does it with his own funds, or a loan upon his own responsibility.

Whole number of prisoners, Oct. 1st, 1827,	-	-	-	89
Since received up to April 1st, 1828,	-	-	-	23
				<hr/> 112
Discharged,	-	-	-	14
Escapes,	-	-	-	00
Died of Epilepsy,	-	-	-	1
				<hr/> 15
				<hr/> 97

The whole number of prisoners, 31st of March, 1828, is 97--4 of which are females, and 18 are colored men--convicted of the following crimes, viz. :—

Arson,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Bigamy,	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Attempt to poison,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
High crime and misdemeanor,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Horse stealing,	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Attempt at rape,	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Attempt to kill,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Manslaughter,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Forgery,	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Passing counterfeit money,	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Attempt to release a prisoner,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Incest,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Adultery,	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Mail robbery,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Highway robbery,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Murder commuted,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bestiality,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rape commuted,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Breaking prison,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Burglary,	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	-	97

SCHEDULE A.

STATEMENT OF PROPERTY ON HAND.

	State Prison, Oct. 1st, 1827.		March 31st, 1828.
Shoe Shop, - - - - -	\$266 33	- - - - -	\$207 97
Cooper's Shop, - - - - -	94 28	- - - - -	2100 82
Carpenter's Shop, - - - - -	343 77	- - - - -	1154 71
Smith Shop, - - - - -	132 71	- - - - -	637 96
Nail Shop, - - - - -	18 00	- - - - -	82 00
Clothing and Bedding, - - - - -	76 50	- - - - -	673 00
Furniture in House and Prison, 5 00	} 95 77	133 70	} 366 56
Prison kitchen and out door implements, 90 77		153 24	
Wood, - - - - -		79 62	
Hospital, - - - - -	8 00	- - - - -	31 90
Provisions, - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	425 72
Brick Department, wood on hand, - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	57 00
<hr/>			
Amount received from New Gate,	1085 36		\$5737 64
Increase of property since Oct. 1st, 1827, - - - - -	4652 28		
	<hr/>		\$5737 64

SCHEDULE B.

STATEMENT OF DEBTS.

Due on book account, March 31st, 1828, - - -	\$505 31	
Owing, - - - - -	638 45	
	<hr/>	133 14
Cash received from Treasury, - - -	1300 00	
Due Warden for monies advanced per cash account, - - -	2201 98	
	<hr/>	3635 12
Increase of property on hand, March 31st, 1828, - - -	4652 28	
Balance gain, - - - - -	<hr/>	\$1017 16

On the 8th of March, 1828, the late acting overseer of New Gate Prison, passed over into my hands the following claims, the property of the State, for which I gave my receipt, which is not brought into view in the foregoing statement, viz. :—

One note of hand, signed Charles Whiting, by G. Whiting, dated Hartford, Jan. 2, 1828, for \$423 08, payable in leather at usual prices, at his store; and one due bill signed Nichols & Humphreys, by Henry Benton, dated Hartford, March 23, 1826, for \$17 46, endorsed July 24, 1827, \$3 85, leaving a balance of \$13 61, payable in soap; and a certified balance of account, against the Union Manufacturing Company, by Christopher Colt, as entered on their books of Jan. 1, 1828, for \$129 46, payable in goods—the whole amounting to \$566 15.

MOSES C. PILSBURY, *Warden.*

State Prison, Wethersfield, April 10, 1828.

*The Physician of the Connecticut State Prison, re-
spectfully REPORTS---*

That such of the convicts as were removed to the Connecticut State Prison during the warm season, were generally placed at labor in the open air. They worked with great diligence, and drank freely of cold water. At night they slept in cool, well ventilated night rooms, which were in perfect contrast to the close and crowded lodgings of the old establishment. Stomach and bowel complaints were the natural result of this change, and such was soon found to be the predisposition of all the prisoners. Cases of diarrhœa and cholera morbus occurred almost daily, most of which passed off with little or no medication. In the month of September, the remainder of the convicts were removed, many of whom were affected in a similar manner. In the course of the autumn, a few cases of ulcerated sore throat appeared, which terminated favorably, as did also a few cases of colic, which yielded to mild and moderate treatment. After the convicts had gone through with this seasoning, and had got upon the regular diet and discipline of the Prison, they became unusually healthy. From the 1st day of October to the 31st of March, not a single instance of acute disease occurred. Among the male convicts not one individual was confined to the hospital, or so much indisposed as to require confinement to the bed, or any thing like a regular course of medication. These remarks have application to the male convicts only, for the female prisoners, four only in number, required almost constant attention, were continually making complaints, and occasioned even more trouble than all the males. One death only has occurred. This person died suddenly, probably of an epileptic fit. One case of dropsy is the only case of severe indisposition at the present time. In adverting to the healthfulness of the prison, which has so far prevailed, we are naturally led to enquire what conduces to it. In the first place

Diet.—The food of the convicts is uniform, and is taken in separate rations in their cells. The established diet, is plain, cheap, and substantial; and having nothing different to expect, the prisoners make no complaints, and when in health eat all their rations. If the rations changed from day to day, some individuals would like one dish better than another, and eat excessively when that was presented, and little or none on other days. On this diet, the appearance of the men has greatly changed for the better, since their removal.

Drink.—The only drink at present allowed in the prison, is water. Spirits and cider are not allowed in any circumstances of health. Those who have been in the habit of using these articles freely, and even intemperately for years, are deprived of them at once, and put upon the plain but wholesome fare of the Prison, without the least inconvenience.

In a few weeks an obvious change for the better takes place—their countenances improve—they gain strength and flesh, and acquire that vigor of mind, which it is well known intemperance blunts or destroys. By this means, they are rendered more mild in their temper and disposition, and of course the subjects of easier government and control.

Personal cleanliness.—The convicts are required to wash themselves regularly—to change their under garments frequently, and to keep themselves in all respects as cleanly as mechanics at the same labor out of doors. No vermin or contagious eruptions are to be found on the prisoners—the plan of solitary cells is directly calculated to prevent the spread of such evils.

The night rooms are swept daily and thoroughly scrubbed. The framed cots on which the men sleep are turned up in the day time, and the beds or mats and covering, are hung up and freely exposed to the air. The rooms are frequently white-washed, and are kept in very fine order. The plan for ventilation, and a supply of pure air is found admirably adapted. The great hall and night rooms are thus kept free from that disgusting prison smell so common in Institutions of this kind. During the

winter, the cold air is tempered by the constant burning of Le-high coal.

Employment.—The convicts have regular and constant employment through the day, suspended only at such times as they receive their food. Laying out of view all considerations of economy and remuneration from the results of labor, and also the importance of establishing habits of industry, which will in future life, form one of the greatest barriers against vice and crime; still experience has shown that labor is *indispensable to the health* of the convict, and should be retained as a part of prison discipline. “Mons. Villerneu,” speaking of the French Prisons, observes, “formerly, one of twelve died annually in these prisons. More recently, one of fifteen, and twenty-three—now, one of thirty-three. This improvement in the condition of the French Prisons,” he says, “has been effected by the agency of the Royal Society of Prisons in France, which has improved the diet and discipline of the Prisons, and introduced labor into them; which last alone,” he observes, “it is calculated reduces the mortality one half.”

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